

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing load controlling of a Web site including a plurality of individual servers and a Network Control Scheduler (NCS), said Web site using Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), said method comprising the steps of:

in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers:

issuing load balancing instructions to said NCS;

receiving said load balancing instructions in said NCS from said any one server; and

complying with said load balancing instructions upon receipt.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of issuing load balancing instructions includes the step of:

passing said load balancing instructions to said NCS in a NCS-control HTTP header, said passing step further including the steps of:

including directives ~~to~~ that must be obeyed by said NCS; and

optionally including a filter to limit a scope of application of said directives.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said directives includes:

flow-control directives;
sharing directives; and
NCS-queuing directives.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein said flow-control directives include:

an increase-rate directive to require said NCS to increase a rate at which requests to said any one server are sent;
a decrease-rate directive to require said NCS to decrease a rate at which requests to said any one server are sent;
an increase-window directive to require said NCS to increase a number of jobs allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server; and
a decrease-window directive to require said NCS to decrease a number of jobs allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein said sharing directives include:

a share directive aimed at enabling an information sharing within all members of said plurality of individual servers and said NCS; and
a clear directive aimed at clearing a previous said information sharing.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein said NCS-queuing directives include:

a lock directive aimed at locking resources identified by said filter; and

an unlock directive aimed at releasing previously locked said resources.

7. (Original) A system, in particular a Network Control Scheduler comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 6.

8. (Original) A computer readable medium comprising instructions for carrying out the method according to claim 7.